

in education because many years ago she was the little girl whom I escorted to a junior high school dance.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I have worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for my entire service in Congress. I have always found the integrity of the Corps beyond question. I have great confidence in the Corps, including an outstanding group of people who work in the Huntsville, Alabama, Division office of the Corps.

Serious charges have been laid on the military leadership of the Corps by some in the press recently. These claims about the soundness of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Navigation Study must be fully evaluated and whatever steps these evaluations indicate to be appropriate must be taken. Until that time, however, I find it unacceptable and unfair to our armed forces to challenge the professional appointees who have given their entire professional career to serve this country. All of these officers have come highly recommended by their peers. Many of us have worked with them earlier in our careers.

The Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Navigation Study has not been completed and is yet to be distributed for state and agency review. To criticize the unknown outcome of the study before the public review has even started may inhibit reasoned development of final recommendations for water improvement by the Secretary of the Army and unfairly color Congress' deliberations on those recommendations. There are certainly many potential alternatives and points of view that have to be considered; there is not just one. There are many uncertainties and unknowns that we will encounter as we plan and prepare for the future, but there is one certainty: the importance to the national welfare of navigation as an essential element of a sound transportation infrastructure.

Through the Corps Civil Works program, the Federal Government has created the world's most advanced water resources infrastructure contributing to our unprecedented standard of living. The program is essentially a capital investment and management program that returns significant economic, environmental, and other benefits to the nation. Though relatively small in the context of total Federal expenditures, investments in, and sound management of the Corps water resources projects have beneficial effects that touch almost every facet of modern American society—navigation projects that provide the Nation with its lowest-cost mode of transportation for bulk commodities; flood control projects that protect the lives, homes and businesses of thousands of Americans; and recreation facilities that enable millions of visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty of our country's waters.

I say that these kinds of decisions are extremely complex and controversial and are

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

best left to the American people, acting through the Congress, to make. The stakes are so high and the potential impacts so great because national security, national competitiveness in the global market place, national health and welfare, and economic well-being of the Midwest grain producers, just to mention a few considerations are at stake. And I, as a member of this body, stand ready to review all of the alternatives and to make the difficult decisions that are necessary to serve our great nation and the needs of my constituents.

There are many outstanding public servants, military and civilian, involved in this and other Corps studies. I support the Corps' process and urge my colleagues to join me in expressing confidence that the Corps, working together with all of the interest groups, as it has so often in the past for great national benefit, will produce recommendations from the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Navigation Study that will stand the test of time.

TRIBUTE TO BOBB MCKITTRICK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Bobb McKittrick of San Mateo, California. Mr. McKittrick, the longtime offensive line coach of the San Francisco 49ers, passed away last Wednesday after a lengthy battle against bile duct cancer. He leaves behind a loving family and a reputation as one of the premiere leaders and motivators in the National Football League. His legacy includes the affection of the hundreds of athletes whose lives he touched with his passion, determination, and commitment to excellence as well as to tens of thousands of devoted fans, for whom he was an example of dedication and public spiritedness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that an article by Michael Silver from the April 26, 1999, issue of Sports Illustrated about the courage, inspiration, and example of Bobb McKittrick be placed in the RECORD. It chronicles his extraordinary coaching record with the 49ers, his positive influence on the careers and lives of his players and friends, and his characteristically tenacious fight against cancer. Mr. Speaker, the story of Bobb McKittrick is an inspiring one.

ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER: OUTSPOKEN NINERS ASSISTANT BOBB MCKITTRICK IS BATTLING CANCER AND LIVER DISEASE WITH THE SAME FIERCE DETERMINATION THAT MADE HIM ONE OF THE BEST COACHES IN THE GAME

They were embattled behemoths in big trouble, and they felt like the smallest men on earth. Late in the third quarter of a game against the Eagles on a chilly September afternoon in Philadelphia 10 years ago, Harris Barton and his fellow San Francisco 49ers offensive linemen trudged off the field with their heads down and their ears pricked. Joe Montana, the Niners' fine china, had been sacked eight times. The Eagles led by 11 points, and censure was a certainty: Coach George Seifert's face was convulsing like Mick Jagger's, offensive coordinator Mike

Holmgren was growling into his headset, and offensive line coach Bobb McKittrick was preparing to vent his frustrations. As the linemen took a seat on the bench, McKittrick stared down at veterans Guy McIntyre, Bubba Paris and Jesse Sapolu and said calmly, "You three might want to start praying about now." Then he turned to Barton. "And Harris," McKittrick added, "if you know a Jewish prayer, you might want to say it."

Without swearing, getting personal or raising his voice, McKittrick, a former Marine who makes Chris Rock seem vague and indirect, had delivered a sharp motivational message. The linemen buckled down. Montana threw four touchdown passes in the fourth quarter, and San Francisco won by 10. The next day McKittrick called Montana into an offensive line meeting and apologized for the breakdown in protection. Montana shrugged it off, but word got around, giving players another reason to respect a man who may be the most successful position coach of his era.

In a business in which coaches get relocated, recycled and removed as a matter of course, McKittrick, 63, has been the Niners' offensive line coach for 20 seasons. During that time San Francisco has won five Super Bowls and put together the most successful two-decade run in NFL history, and the fact that McKittrick has been entrenched in the same job throughout that span, under three head coaches, is not accidental. In addition to routinely milking exceptional production out of players overlooked or cast off by other teams, McKittrick has been the glue that has held together the Niners' vaunted West Coast attack. Bill Walsh, recently rehired as San Francisco's general manager, says McKittrick "has developed more offensive line knowledge than anyone, ever. The continuity of the line, its consistent ability to protect the quarterback and open running lanes, has been the cornerstone of the 49ers' success over the past 20 years, and without Bobb, I don't think it happens. His men have played longer, with better technique, more production, fewer injuries. In every possible category you can measure, he's right at the top."

The Niners are so queasy about the notion of ever working without McKittrick that they told him he'd have a job for life when he was mulling an offer to become the St. Louis Rams' offensive coordinator after the 1994 season. He recently signed a two-year deal, and in the weeks leading up to the draft, he was busy breaking down film on top line prospects—an endeavor that in most years is about as fruitful for McKittrick as Academy Award voters viewing Brian Bosworth movies. The San Francisco brass concentrates on drafting talent at other positions and relies on McKittrick to excel with lesser-regarded linemen. Few coaches have done so much with so little, but no one is taking McKittrick for granted anymore.

In January, four days after the 49ers were eliminated from the NFC playoffs by the Atlanta Falcons, McKittrick received a medical double whammy: Doctors told him that he had cancer and that he needed a liver transplant. McKittrick, whose colon was removed 17 years ago after precancerous cells were detected, has a malignancy on his bile duct. He has begun undergoing radiation and chemotherapy at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto. He needs a liver transplant because he is suffering from cholangiocarcinoma. He is on a waiting list for a new liver.

While his relatives, friends and colleagues are worried sick, McKittrick, predictably,